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LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith the text of a memorandum dated 17 October 1988 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the head of the ICRC delegation in Baghdad in reply to the ICRC memorandum dated 4 October 1988.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Memorandum dated 17 October 1988 from the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the Head of the
International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Baghdad and, with reference to the ICRC memorandum dated 4 October 1988, has the honour to communicate the following:

1. In two letters dated 11 and 19 August 1988 respectively from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Iraq requested that a start be made on registering all prisoners who have not been registered, and immediate steps taken to conduct a detailed medical examination of all prisoners in both Iraq and Iran, and to provide each of them with a medical report before their exchange.
2. On the basis of the foregoing, the Republic of Iraq agrees with the tenor of the ICRC memorandum dated 4 October 1988 to the effect that the exchange of prisoners should begin, on condition that Iran reciprocates. Since the exchange of prisoners is a humanitarian matter and responds to the ICRC request, our agreement on this step is unrelated to the other issues referred to in Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and does not affect the implementation of that resolution in accordance with the sequence of the provisions set forth therein.

The Ministry would be grateful if the ICRC delegation would kindly transmit the foregoing information to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to convey to the delegation the assurances of its highest consideration.

